



# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

PARISH WORKBOOK  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION

# ABOUT YOUR PARISH WORKBOOK

- This parish workbook is designed to equip pastors and key parish leaders with data about the Archdiocese of St. Louis, your local planning area, and your parish.
- The data contained in this parish workbook has been gathered over the past twenty years from your parish and other parishes across the Archdiocese.
- This parish workbook should be used as an internal planning tool to help shape your reflections on the current strengths and opportunities for future growth of ministry and evangelization in the future.
- To help ensure accuracy of information, parishes are requested to limit the distribution of the information contained in this parish workbook to the pastor, parish staff, key parish leaders, and key advisory bodies. Information summarizing this data will be made available in the fall 2022 for parishioners across the Archdiocese.



# ALL THINGS NEW PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to “Go and Make Disciples of all Nations,” strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## GUIDING TEXTS

### REV. 21:3-5

*I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them.*

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, the old order has passed away.”*

*The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.”*





## GUIDING TEXTS EVANGELII NUNTIANDI (#18)

*For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."*

*But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.*







## GUIDING TEXTS JOY OF THE GOSPEL (#27)

*I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.*



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE OUTCOME

**Develop a plan that will make all things new enabling a vibrant Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for the next century**

## **A Renewed Church**

Gospel renewal in our parishes, schools, and other ministry efforts

## **A Renewed Mission**

Enhance our evangelization efforts to those on the margins of society

## **A Vibrant Future**

Secure a vibrant future for the Church of St. Louis



# STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE

## GOALS

1. **Unceasing Prayer.** Engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the need for Jesus Christ in their daily lives and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our actions to fully share the love of the Lord in every encounter.
2. **Unifying Vision.** Articulate and implement a vision for evangelization that empowers and expects every baptized Catholic to spread the Gospel message and ensures a Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis through missionary outreach, parish and school footprint, and dynamic leadership.
3. **Intentional Stewardship.** Define and develop a plan that will appropriately reallocate resources throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis that will be supported by structures at the diocesan, parish, school, and agency levels to ensure long-term viability and vibrancy of the Catholic presence.





# ALL THINGS NEW TIMELINE





# ALL THINGS NEW

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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR DIOCESE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

# ABOUT OUR DIOCESE

- The Archdiocese of St. Louis is 178 parishes encompassing the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties – a large and diverse territory: urban, suburban and rural.
- Our local church has been declining for several decades as older Catholics die and there are insufficient number of young Catholics to take their place.
- This is best exemplified by the significant decline in the number of births and baptisms in our diocese.
- As our Catholic population has moved from the city to the near suburbs and from the near suburbs to the farther out suburbs, this has resulted in too few priests in large parishes and too many priests in small parishes.
- Our diocesan priests are aging and number of priests to serve our Catholic population is declining.
- Over the past decade, Mass attendance has been on a steady decline. The long-term implications of COVID are unknown, but the rebound in Mass attendance from 2020 to 2021 still leaves us 25% below pre-COVID levels.



# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- In 2021, the number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis dipped below 500,000 for first time since the 1960s.
- We have more baptisms than funerals and we have nearly 1,000 enter the church each year. Our numbers should be growing by 2,000 per year.
- As many as 5,000 Catholics are “leaving” the Church – OR – not re-engaging in the Church after high school or college.



# OUR CATHOLIC POPULATION IS AGING RESULTING IN FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE

## The Landscape in the United States

- In the last decade, the percentage of the adult population claiming no religious affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 17% to 26%.
- In the last decade, the percentage of the millennial population claiming no religious affiliation grew from 27% to 40%.

## The Landscape in the Archdiocese of St. Louis

Our baptism and marriage trends reflect the national landscape, as they are half of what they were 20 years ago.





# WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mass attendance was declining between 0.5% to 1% per year.
- Mass attendance hit a record low in October 2020 which is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While Mass attendance in October 2021 showed a significant increase from 2020, it was still 25% lower than Mass attendance in October 2019.
- In 2019, only 33% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass. By 2021, only 25% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass.



# FEWER BAPTISMS HAVE RESULTED IN FEWER CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PSR

- Though we educate a higher percentage of children in our Catholic schools than nearly any other diocese (37%), enrollment continues to decline.
- During the last decade, PSR enrollment has declined faster than day school enrollment.
- Our current model of Catholic elementary schools cannot continue.
  - Only 40-50% of our elementary school children live in the boundaries of their parish school.
  - The cost to educate our students continues to outpace tuition increases.
  - Parish investment in our schools continues to absorb an increasing percentage of parish funds available to support other parish ministries.



# OUR PRIESTS ARE AGING

- 35% of our diocesan priests (74 priests) serving in parishes are 65 years of age or older.
- These 74 priests could retire in the next 10 years.
- Though priests' retirement age is 75, the average of retirement for our diocesan priests has been 71.
- By 2026, we will have fewer diocesan priests to serve in parishes than the number of parishes we have.
- Our largest parishes will still need to be served by 2-3 priests.



\* Excluding retired priests resident in parishes



# OUR FINITE RESOURCES NEED TO BE REALIGNED TO ENABLE VIBRANT MINISTRY



Number of Priests *	49	46	38	27	50
Ratio of Parishioners to Priests	619	1,416	1,996	2,704	3,411

\* Includes diocesan and religious order priests





# ALL THINGS NEW

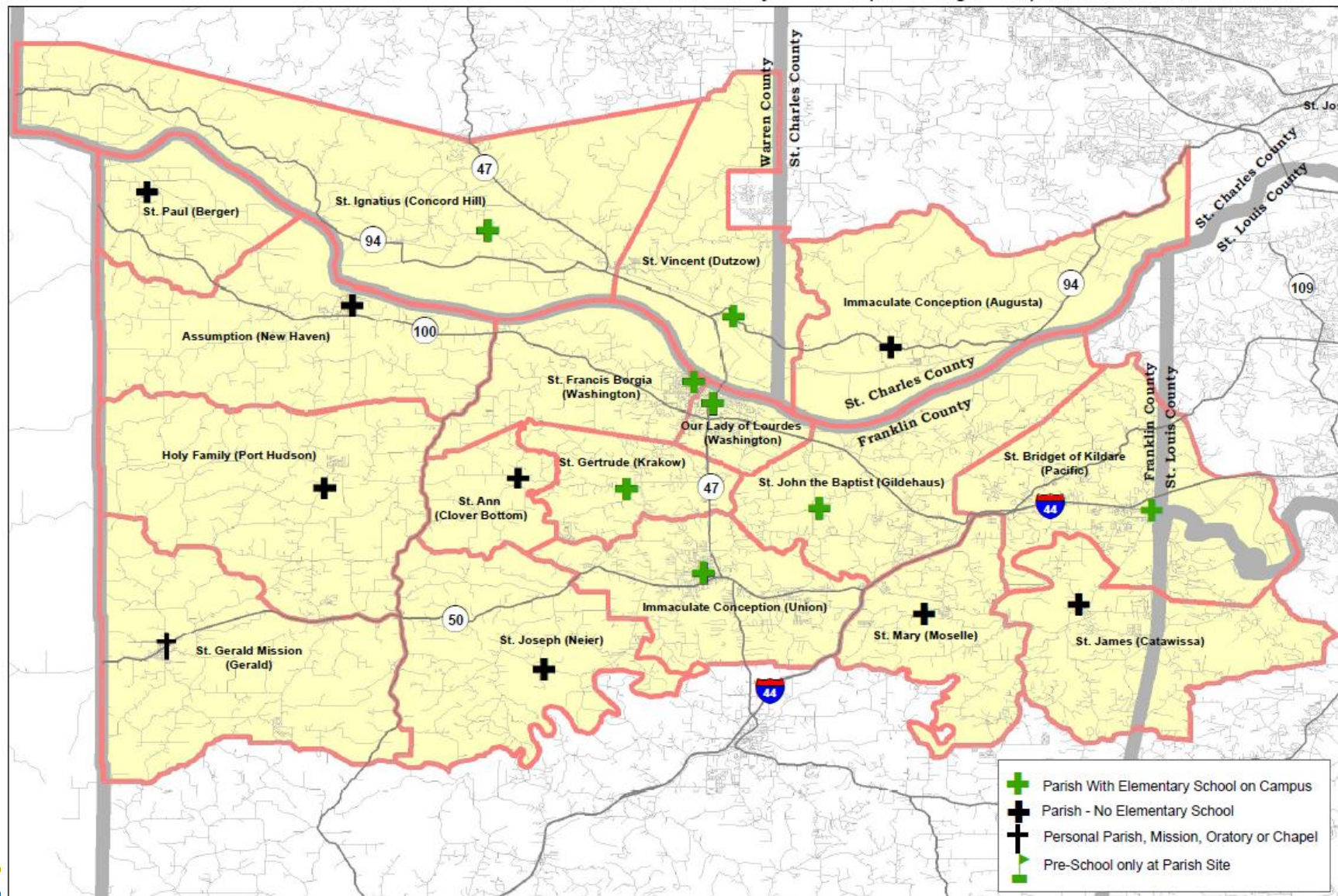
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STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

OUR PLANNING AREA  
PLANNING AREA #12



# OUR TERRITORY FOR EVANGELIZATION





# ABOUT OUR PLANNING AREA

- The planning area is in the Counties of St. Charles, Franklin and Warren with a small portion to the east in St. Louis County and Jefferson County. The geography of this area is defined by Interstate 44, Highway 50 and Routes 94, 47, 100 and 185.
- Located in Washington deanery. There are 15 territorial parishes, 1 mission and 8 elementary schools. Currently there are 14 diocesan priests assigned to this group.
- There is a cluster of parishes around Route 47 that are within 5 miles of each other and two of the larger parishes are within 1.5 miles. Though the three parishes north of the river are five miles from each other, inclement weather makes travelling in this area difficult and the bridge into Franklin County has been known to be impassible with flooding or ice.



# OUR PLANNING AREA IS AGING BUT HAS A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE CATHOLIC POPULATION

- Total population in the planning area in the 2020 census was up 5% from 2010.
- The population 55 or older increased from 21% in 2000 to 32% in 2020.
- 24% of the population is registered Catholic, which is higher than the Diocesan average of 18%.
- Median household income in the area is \$62,672, which is above the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.



# OUR PLANNING AREA DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
Population	67,780	78,710	84,663	88,611
Percent Change		16%	8%	5%
Households	23,518	28,634	32,144	34,390
Percent Change		22%	12%	7%
Population				
White	66,309	76,110	81,481	80,830
Percent of Total	98%	97%	96%	91%
Black	1,058	1,340	1,161	1,385
Percent of Total	2%	2%	1%	2%
Other/Multi-Race	412	1,260	2,020	6,396
Percent of Total	1%	2%	2%	7%
Hispanic (not a race)	422	548	1,163	2,020
Percent of Total	1%	1%	1%	2%
% of Population Age 55+	20%	21%	26%	32%

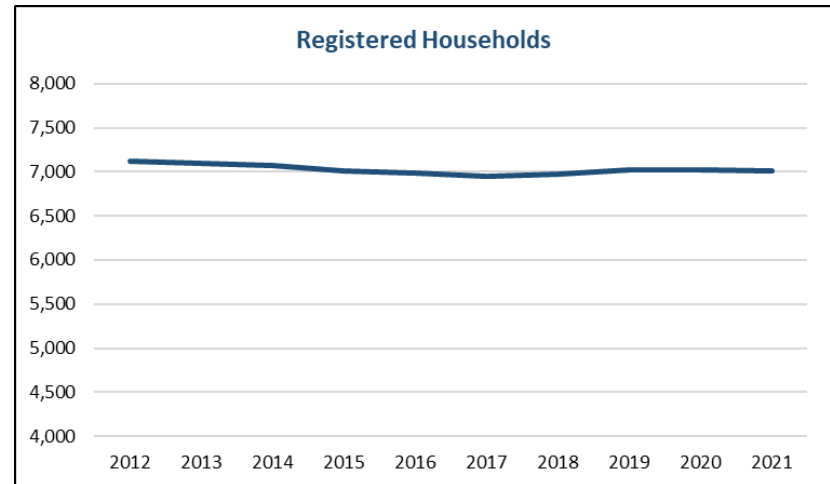
2020 Data	
% of Households - Renters	24%
% of Households - Single Person Living Alone	24%
Median Household Income	
Planning Area	\$ 62,007
Archdiocese	\$ 60,700
2021 Data	
% of Population Registered Catholic	
Planning Area	23%
Archdiocese	18%
No. of Catholic School Children in Planning Area	1,270
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools	75%



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

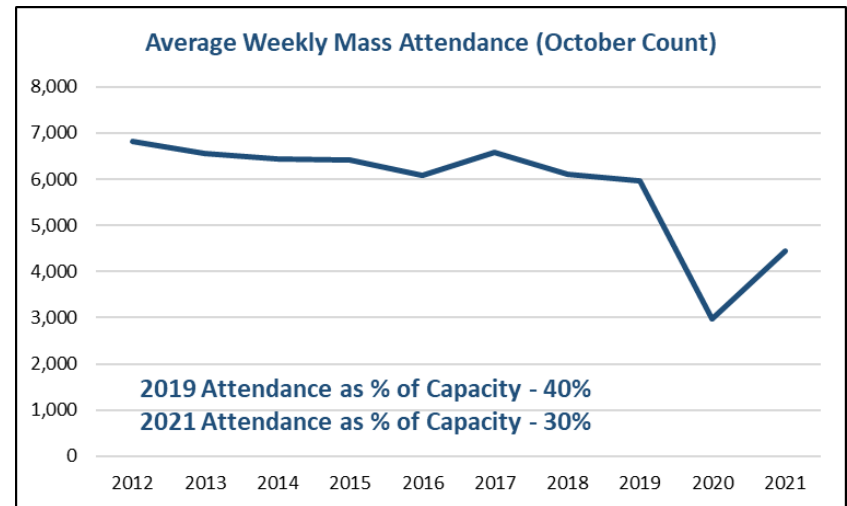
- Registered households in the planning area declined by 2% during the past decade, compared to a decline of 7% for the diocese.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

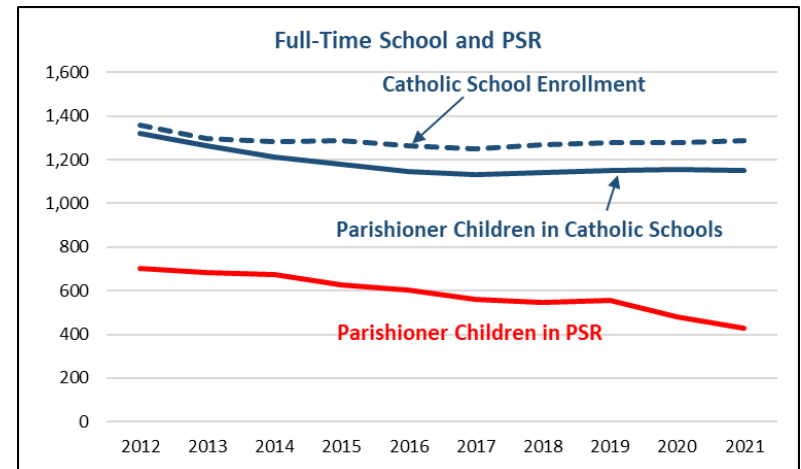
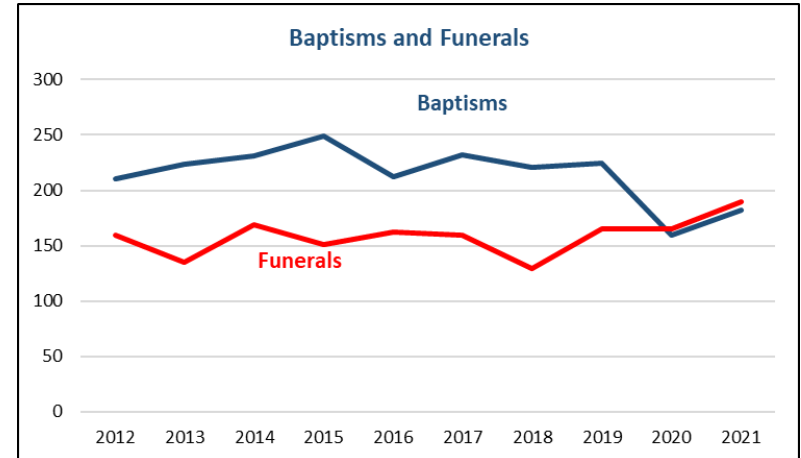
- Mass attendance declined 24% during the decade, compared to a decline of 30% for the archdiocese as a whole.
- Mass attendance as percent of capacity was above the Archdiocesan average of 35% in 2019 and 25% in 2021.



# OUR PLANNING AREA SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 FORMATION

- Baptisms had been stable and well above funerals until the two COVID years.
- The Catholics of this planning area have a strong preference for Catholic day schools over PSR.
- Catholic school enrollment declined 5% over the past decade, compared to a 22% decline for the entire diocese.
- PSR enrollment declined 39% over the past decade, similar to that of the overall diocese.





# OUR PLANNING AREA

## MINISTRY TRENDS

	Registered Parishioner Households		Number of Catholics	Weekend Mass Attendance		Church Capacity	Baptisms	Funerals	Parishioner Children in:	
	2011	2021		2019	2021		Five Year Average 2017-2021		Catholic Schools (Include Privates) 2021-22	Traditional PSR 2021-22
Assumption (New Haven)	298	280	810	n/a *	n/a *	220	7	5	2	26
Holy Family (Port Hudson)	110	128	349	121	77	100	4	5	10	23
Immaculate Conception (Augusta)	119	100	253	108	93	98	1	3	7	15
Immaculate Conception (Union)	1,027	945	2,650	1,060	593	325	22	25	141	46
Our Lady of Lourdes (Washington)	895	1,029	3,010	923	683	850	50	23	331	49
St. Ann (Clover Bottom)	185	169	438	191	192	220	7	2	36	29
St. Bridget of Kildare (Pacific)	610	585	1,580	402	311	500	10	11	94	23
St. Francis Borgia (Washington)	1,482	1,457	3,805	1,045	892	600	35	35	201	57
St. Gerald Mission (Gerald)	122	84	220	98	76	300	3	2	1	8
St. Gertrude (Krakow)	655	616	1,735	489	389	325	16	14	104	28
St. Ignatius (Concord Hill)	241	185	535	220	147	350	7	3	36	10
St. James (Catawissa)	97	101	213	n/a *	n/a *	150	2	4	4	12
St. John the Baptist (Gildehaus)	475	520	1,485	488	363	200	17	12	88	30
St. Joseph (Neier)	284	300	902	276	211	350	9	5	24	61
St. Mary (Moselle)	155	142	321	n/a *	n/a *	225	3	4	0	8
St. Paul (Berger)	96	110	288	n/a *	n/a *	140	1	1	0	2
St. Vincent (Dutzow)	287	264	770	249	188	250	9	7	70	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,138</b>	<b>7,015</b>	<b>19,364</b>	<b>5,670</b>	<b>4,215</b>		<b>204</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>430</b>

\* Assumption (New Haven), St. James (Catawissa), St. Mary (Moselle), & St. Paul (Berger) either don't participate in October Mass Counts or did so too infrequently to count.



# OUR PLANNING AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS INCREASING

- The eight elementary schools in this planning area enrolled 1,290 children in 2021, up 2% from 5 years before. All but two have under 200 students.
- Most schools draw heavily from outside their parish boundaries.
- The number of students going to Catholic elementary schools from the parishes in the planning area is 1,149.
- There are 430 students enrolled in PSR in 2021, down 28% from 5 years earlier.



# OUR PLANNING AREA

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRENDS

	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22 vs 2016-17	2021-22	2021-22
	Enrollment (K-8)	Enrollment (Pre-K) PK 3-4 & PK 4-5	5 Year Percent Change in (K-8) Enrollment	% K-8 Students Registered in Parish	% K-8 Students Living in Parish Boundaries
Immaculate Conception - Union	192	26	(31%)	73%	64%
Our Lady of Lourdes - Washington	343	81	21%	92%	34%
St. Bridget of Kildare - Pacific	124	32	15%	74%	49%
St. Francis Borgia - Washington	262	67	41%	73%	40%
St. Gertrude - Krakow	161	48	0%	62%	29%
St. Ignatius - Concord Hill	41	6	(15%)	83%	78%
St. John the Baptist - Gildehaus	90	27	(27%)	86%	50%
St. Vincent - Dutzow	77	18	4%	82%	57%
TOTAL	1,290	305	2%	n/a	n/a





# ALL THINGS NEW

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OUR PARISH  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION

# ABOUT OUR PARISH

- Located at the crossroads of Highway 50 and 47, Immaculate Conception was founded in 1866. Early on the Jesuits from Washington would visit the parish once a month. The Franciscans from Clover Bottom took over the parish in 1894 but still did not provide weekly Mass until 1905. That was also the year that the parish school opened. Diocesan priests assumed responsibility for the parish in 1948. As Union has grown, so has the parish to nearly 950 households. The parish school has 192 students.
- The parish church was built in 1953 and seats 325. The parish operates its own cemetery.



# ABOUT OUR PARISH

- Located in the second largest city in Franklin County, the parish area has grown rapidly the last 3 decades.
- Parish membership has been slightly declining but had strong and growing Mass attendance pre-COVID. The parish school has been declining in enrollment, even with the benefit of non-parishioner and non-Catholic students.
- Parish offertory has been declining probably as a result of parishioner households declining; the parish balance sheet is strong, but the parish is investing more than recommended in the parish school.





# OUR PARISH AREA HAS SEEN RAPID GROWTH THE LAST THREE DECADES

- Population in the area has grown rapidly in the last 3 decades. Population is 70% higher than it was 1990.
- Nearly 2/3 of the population in Immaculate Conception territory live in the city of Union.
- Median household income is \$56,300 which is just below the archdiocesan average of \$60,700.
- 16% of the resident population is Catholic which is just below the archdiocesan average of 18%.



# OUR PARISH

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

(U.S. Census Data)	1990	2000	2010	2020
Population	10,168	12,081	15,604	17,653
Percent Change		19%	29%	13%
Households	3,530	4,474	5,839	6,789
Percent Change		27%	31%	16%
Population				
White	10,003	11,744	15,039	15,976
Percent of Total	98%	97%	96%	90%
Black	109	125	145	212
Percent of Total	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other/Multi-Race	56	212	420	1,465
Percent of Total	1%	2%	3%	8%
Hispanic (not a race)	71	111	222	449
Percent of Total	1%	1%	1%	3%
% of Population Age 55+	20%	20%	22%	29%

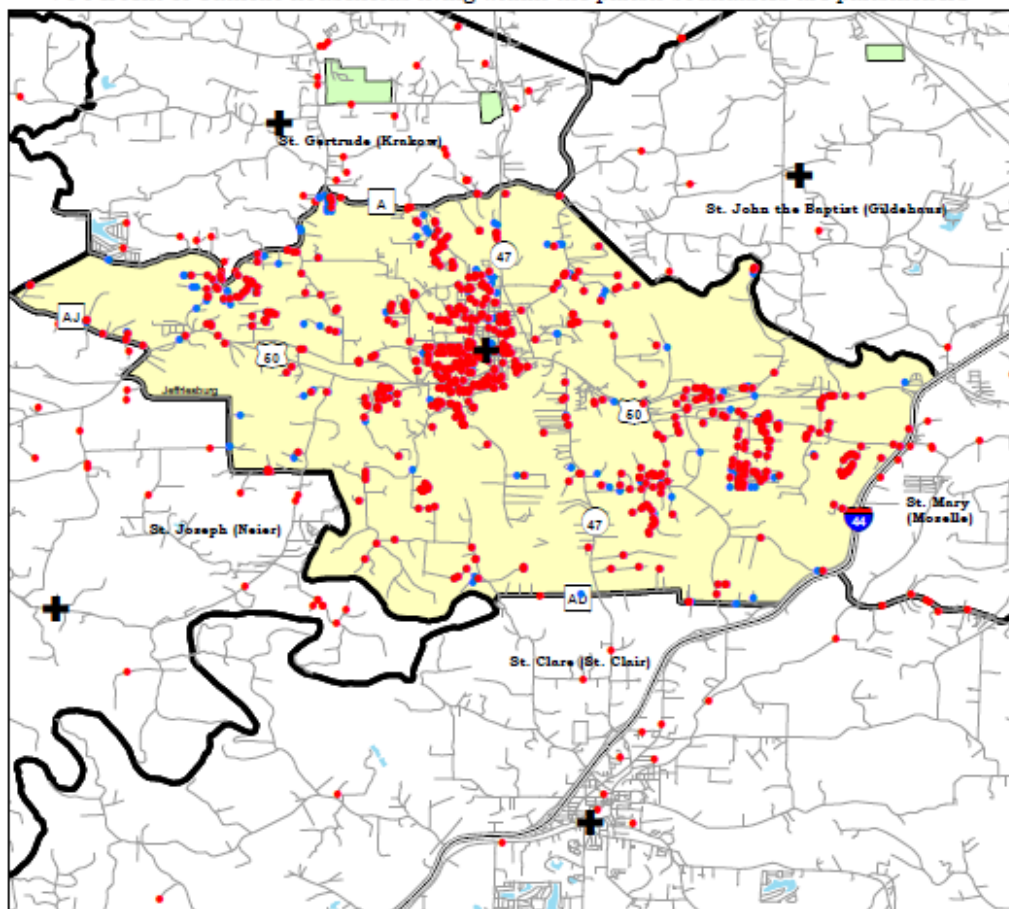
2020 Data	
% of Households - Renters	31%
% of Households - Single Person Living Alone	22%
<hr/>	
Median Household Income	
Parish Area	\$56,285
Archdiocese	\$60,700
2021 Data	
% of Population Registered Catholic	
Parish Area	16%
Archdiocese	18%
No. of Catholic School Children in Parish Area	185
2017-2021 (Five-Year Average)	
% 8th Grade Students to Catholic High Schools	53%



# WHERE OUR PARISHIONERS & CATHOLICS LIVE

- Red dots are parishioner households; blue dots are Catholic households that are registered at a different parish.
- There are nearly the same number of Catholic households in the boundaries (952) as there are parishioner households (932).
- This means that just as many Catholic households leave the boundaries to affiliate elsewhere than come into the parish from outside the boundaries.
- Given that a high percentage of the population and Catholic households live in Union, it is not surprising that the “in boundary” percentages of 78% and 76% are much higher than the diocesan average of 59%.

78 Percent of parishioner households live within the parish boundaries  
76 Percent of Catholic households living within the parish boundaries are parishioners



• Parishioner Households

• Catholic households living in parish boundaries that are members of another parish

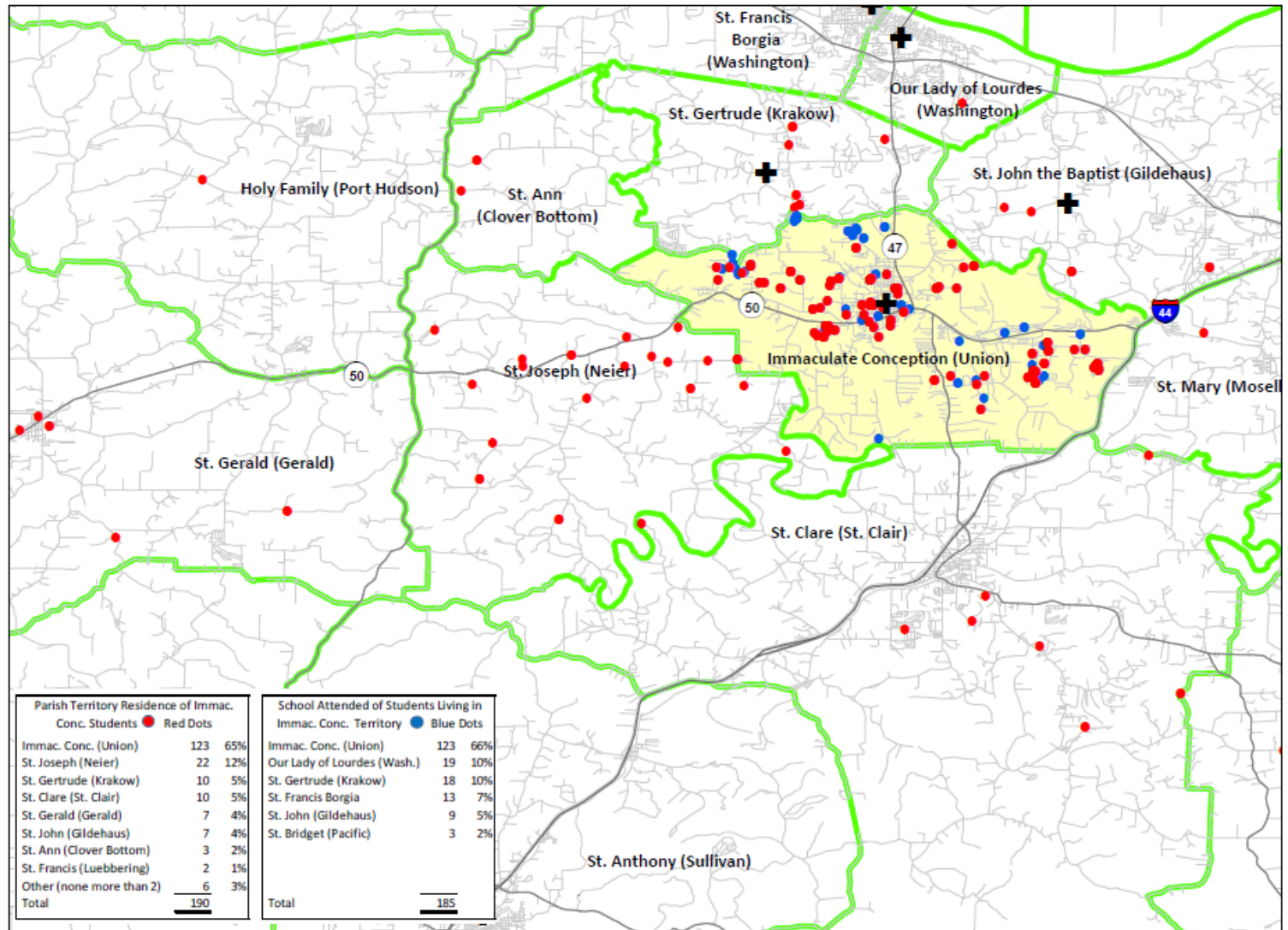
Residence of Parishioners			Parish Membership of HH in parish boundaries		
Immac. Conc. - Union	725	78%	Immac. Conc. - Union	725	76%
St. Joseph - Neier	46		St. Joseph - Neier	49	
St. Gertrude - Krakow	36		St. Gertrude	40	
St. Clare - St. Clair	21		St. Francis Borgia	37	
Other	104		Other	101	
Total	932		Total	952	



# WHERE CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS LIVE

- Just as with parishioner households, there are just about the same number of Catholic school students in the boundaries (185) as there are students in the parish school (190).
- The school attracts students from the east, west and south parish areas that don't have schools

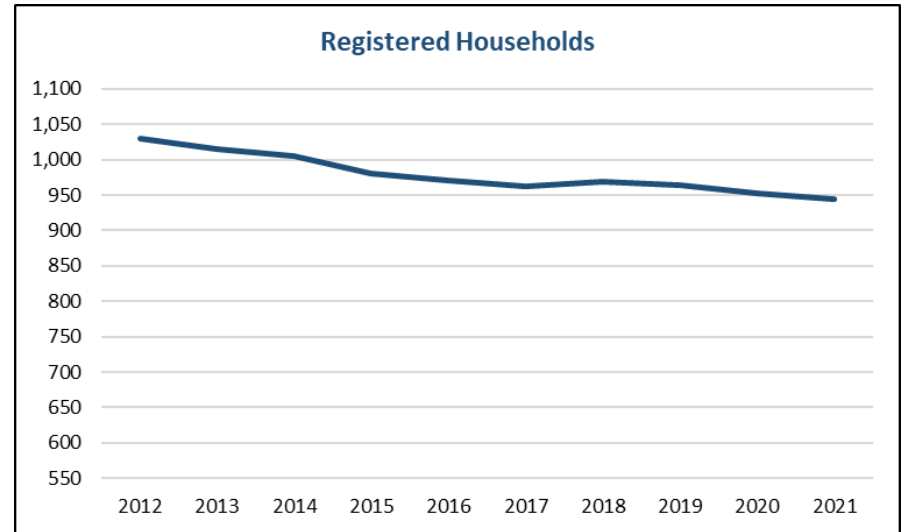
Immaculate Conception (Union) - Residence of Students (K-8)  
2021-22



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## REGISTERED HOUSEHOLDS

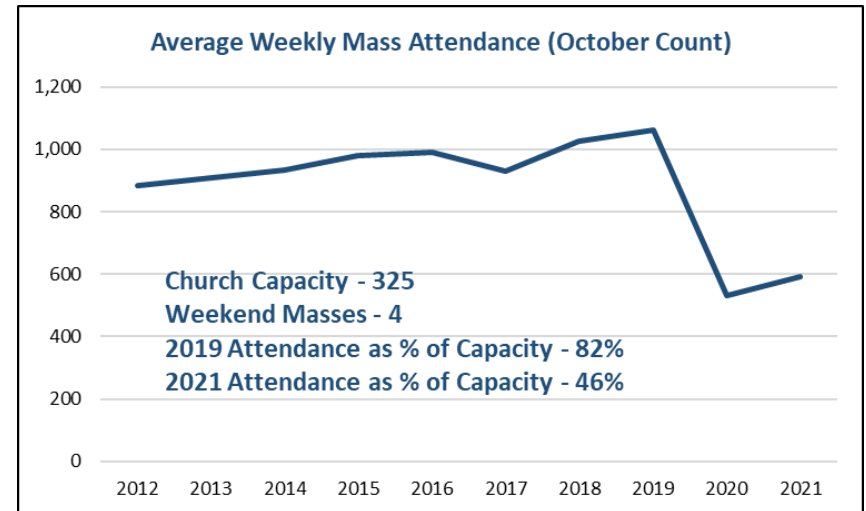
- After achieving its highest parishioner household membership ever in 2010, parishioner households have declined slightly during the past decade.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## MASS ATTENDANCE

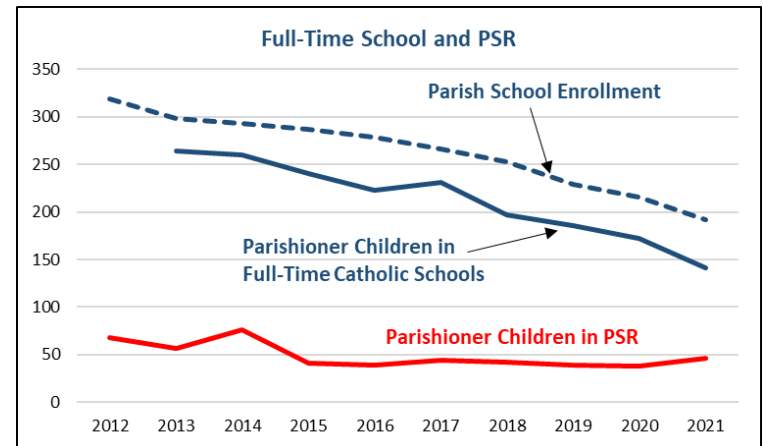
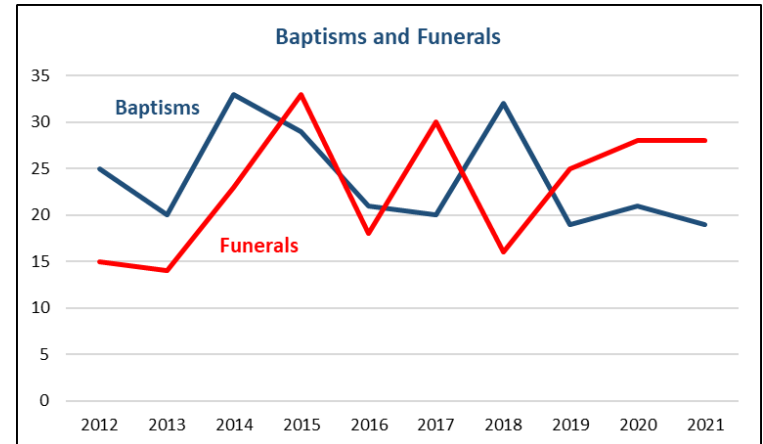
- One of the few parishes in the diocese that experienced a Pre-COVID growth in Mass attendance during the past decade.
- Mass attendance % of capacity is much higher than the archdiocesan average of 33% and 25%. This reflects the small capacity of the parish church.
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance % of parishioners at Mass on the weekend was 34-39%, much higher than the archdiocesan average of 27-29%.



# OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

## BAPTISMS, FUNERALS, & K-8 RELIGIOUS FORMATION

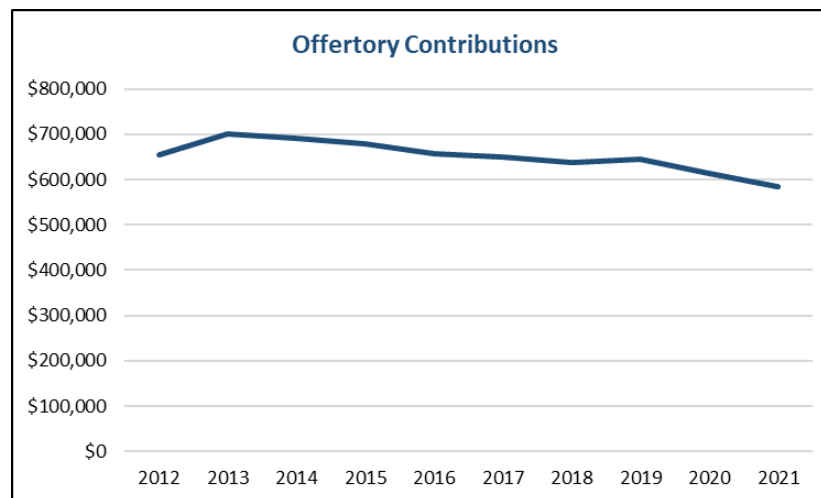
- Baptisms have been relatively stable over the past decade.
- The parish school has been declining significantly over the past decade. School enrollment is bolstered by students from St. Joseph in Neier, smaller numbers from other parishes and some non-Catholic students.
- PSR enrollment has been stable over the past decade.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Offertory contributions have been on a slow and steady decline over the past decade perhaps reflecting the decline in parishioner households.

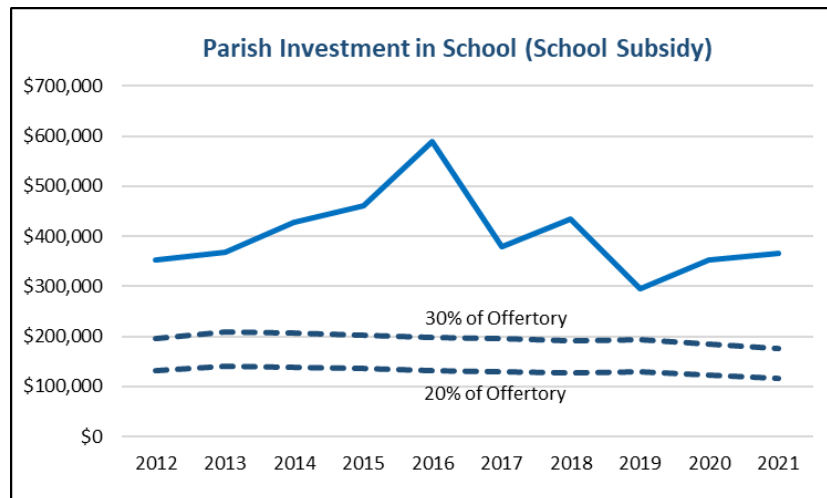




# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## INVESTMENT IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- Parish investment in the day school has been well above the recommended 20-30% of offertory giving.



# OUR PARISH FINANCIAL TRENDS

## PARISH FINANCIAL CONDITION

- Parish revenue is excess of expense has enabled reserves to grow.

